Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Wednesday 08 Mar 2023 until 23:59 on Thursday 09 Mar 2023

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 08 Mar 2023 at 02:06

Confidence: High for a fine day Wednesday and for becoming more unsettled with significant snow on Thursday but lower for details from Thursday due to the uncertainty of the development and track of a low across the UK.

Headline for Wednesday 08 Mar 2023: Dry, cold and sunny, cloudier in the afternoon.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 08 Mar 2023

Blizzards No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** No Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales No Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** Medium Likelihood	**Poor visibility** No Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Sunny	Sunny	Cloudy	Cloudy	Clear night	Clear night
Precipitation probability					
00%	00%	00%	00%	00%	00%

Forecast for Wednesday 08 Mar 2023

Weather: A dry day. Hazy sunshine in the morning. High cloud thickening in the afternoon. Remaining dry with clear spells through the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 100%

Low cloud and visibility: With no cloud expected below the summits visibility will be excellent with good panoramic views of surrounding fells and lakes.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 08 Mar 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	13/17 E	21/25 E	17/22 E	17/22 E	19/24 E	16/21 E	12/15 NE
600	11/15 E	16/20 E	15/20 E	15/20 E	14/21 E	11/16 NE	8/11 NE
300	4/12 E	5/13 E	8/17 E	8/18 E	5/15 E	5/14 NE	5/11 NE
Valley	5/7 NE	5/12 E	8/16 E	10/18 E	7/16 NE	8/15 NE	8/13 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-6/-12	-6/-14	-4/-12	-4/-11	-5/-13	-6/-13	-6/-12
600	-4/-10	-3/-10	-2/-8	-1/-7	-3/-9	-4/-10	-4/-9
300	-2/-5	-0/-3	2/-1	2/-2	-0/-3	-2/-5	-3/-6
Valley	0/-2	2/-1	4/1	4/0	2/-1	1/-3	0/-4
Freezing Level*	00m	00m	00m	00m	00m	00m	00m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Valley temperatures locally minus 6 Celsius at dawn and struggling in places to get above freezing by day.

Forecast for Thursday 09 Mar 2023

Weather: Dry and likely much of the morning but cloud thickening. Outbreaks of snow are expected to spread northeast in the afternoon, becoming persistent and occasionally heavy with blizzard conditions likely, even at modest elevations, during the evening.

Maximum wind: Easterly 10-15mph increasing 25mph through the morning and then 30-40mph in the afternoon with gusts around 60mph likely over ridges and summits through the afternoon and evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 75% at first but falling to near zero by early afternoon.

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional cloud above about 750m at first becoming periods or persistent above 450-600m, with patches below, by early afternoon. Away from cloud visibility very good falling to a kilometre or less in more persistent snow and near zero in blizzard conditions.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around minus 3 or 4 Celsius in the early hours rising to plus 1 or 2 Celsius in afternoon.
At 800m: Around minus 4 or 5 Celsius
Freezing level: All levels, rising to around 300m through the afternoon

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Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 7 March 2023 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:50 Full report: Apart from an extremely light dusting of hail, no further snow has fallen over the last 24 hours. There is no snow below 750m. Above 750m is a thin layer of snow; its depth rises slightly with height but only reaches an average of around 2cm at 900m with the deepest drift I could find being a massive 6cm!! Where undisturbed, and especially below 850m, traction on the snow is good. However, underfoot conditions are far more slippery where the snow has been compressed by walkers' boots and also above 850m, and especially above 900m, where the snow settled on old rime ice and snow. Microspikes are strongly recommended to negotiate such ground safely. Despite a summit midday air temperature of minus 5 degrees C, the sun has thawed the snow on many south facing slopes and also some rocks catching the sun. Where such ground remains damp at dusk it will freeze, so walkers out on Wednesday should expect to encounter verglas (thin ice) on rocks. Today, the only other ice encountered on paths was where they cross drainage lines. Aside from this, paths below the snowline were dry. Above roughly 930m on steep north and east facing slopes there are patches of old, hard snow, which have been present for weeks, and are now situated under this week's snow. Owing to their locations, though, they are not on any paths so walkers are unlikely to have to negotiate them. Exposed routes on the high fells, such as Striding and Swirral Edges, require particular care and attention owing to the mixed underfoot conditions varying from bare, dry, grippy rock to slippery snow and ice. The recent snow has created a noticeable contrast between the green valleys and the wintry feeling summit which, at midday, gave a windchill reading (what the temperature actually feels like) of minus 12 degrees C (and this in very light winds) quickly chilling those dressed in shorts and not carrying any additional clothing. This was a shame not just for their safety but also their enjoyment as the high fells today were places to don extra clothing and linger to soak in the stupendous 360 degree views with the outline of distant fells as clear as they ever will be. Therefore full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat and gloves), mountain boots and equipment including a torch, map and compass are all essential to safely, and enjoyably, roam the fells. Good navigational skills are always required, but are especially crucial when entering low cloud when combined with snow obscuring ground features. Given the present conditions, for those heading above the snowline microspikes are strongly recommended; the snow currently not being deep enough for crampons although they would be preferable to not carrying anything. Goggles could also be useful to lessen the sting of any windblown hail or spindrift. Given the current forecast, hopefully sunglasses will once again be essential to walkers out on Wednesday. Come properly equipped and enjoy the Lakeland

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scenery at its best! Temperature: minus 5.5 C, Maximum wind speed 10.4mph, Wind chill: minus 12.2 C, Average wind speed: 4.7 mph

Issued at: 02:06 on Wed 08 Mar 2023

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